

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 2005-138
DATE: December 2, 2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Winter Storm** – A winter storm with snow, freezing rain and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota on November 27-30, 2005, disrupting electrical power and bringing transportation to a stand-still.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** In Richland County, one individual sought medical attention from the Fairmount Fire Department.
3. **DAMAGES:** The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Grand Forks reported no hazardous weather is in the immediate forecast for North Dakota.

Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs)

The RECs provided the following updates:

Cass County Electric – All power was restored the evening of December 1; however, large commercial customers are not yet able to resume normal operations. Crews completed temporary fixes and are beginning permanent repairs to lines.

Ottertail Power - Approximately 300 customers in North Dakota are still without power. Rural Casselton is online as of December 1. All residents in Galchutt remain on generator power. Residents in rural Fairmount, Hankinson, Tyler and Wahpeton areas remain without power with restoration likely by December 4. These residents are either using generators or have made arrangements for sheltering with family and friends. Target time for restoration in these areas is the weekend of December 3 and 4, pending the severity of damage in those areas.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: In addition to previous reports, the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) is providing technical assistance.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Sargent County, friends and neighbors are providing assistance to each other.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Staff from the N.D. Department of Emergency Services, Division of Homeland Security, conducted a teleconference on December 2 with emergency management staff from Barnes, Cass, Ransom, Richland and Sargent Counties regarding damage assessment processes. Dickey County officials were unable to participate; however, arrangements have been made to brief them on December 5. Initial assessments are underway in these counties to determine the extent of damage to REC infrastructure, as well as the extent of debris removal efforts and emergency sheltering.

The NDDoH is providing safety information regarding operations of alternate heating sources.

The N.D. Army National Guard and Air National Guard have provided a total of 30 generators, along with eight personnel, to cities impacted by storm conditions.

Richland County

The National Guard provided generators to the following cities:

- The city of Fairmount received 16 generators including one 15 kilowatt (KW) to power the city, and two 10KW, 10 5KW and three 3KW to provide residential service. Four soldiers from the NDNG 142nd Engineer Battalion are providing generator support throughout the weekend. One 200KW generator was placed on stand from by the NDANG 119th Fighter Wing for use, if needed.
- The city of Hankinson received one 100KW generator to power the city lift station from the 119th Fighter Wing of the NDNG. Seven other generators were sent by the NDNG in support of needs for Hankinson to include one 60KW and six 3KW. Two soldiers from the NDNG 142nd Engineer Battalion and two soldiers from the NDAG 119th Fighter Wing are providing generator support throughout the weekend.
- The city of Lidgerwood received six 3KW generators from the NDNG 142nd Engineer Battalion.

Sargent County

Electrical services were re-established to approximately 200 customers in the Dakota Valley service area by the evening of December 1 with approximately 10 residences remaining without power. Four of these families are staying with relatives and friends and are using generators to assist in keeping their water supply pipes for the home and cattle from freezing. One resident drained the water pipes in their homes and is staying with friends. The remaining families are in school or work for most of the day while using other locations for essential services, (i.e. showers). All 10 residences without electricity have portable generators. County officials are using borrowed, rented and purchased generators to provide power to homes.

The county food pantry is assisting with food supplies for those residents who may have encountered food spoilage.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: All requests for generators have been fulfilled.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security